

# SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

104th Congress  
1st Session

Vote No. 402

September 8, 1995, 10:04 a.m.  
Page S-12876 Temp. Record

## WELFARE REFORM BILL/Welfare Rolls and Criminals

**SUBJECT:** Family Self-Sufficiency Act of 1995 . . . H.R. 4. Santorum amendment No. 2477 to the Dole modified perfecting amendment No. 2280 to the committee substitute amendment.

### ACTION: AMENDMENT AGREED TO, 91-6

**SYNOPSIS:** As reported with a committee substitute amendment, H.R. 4, the Family Self-Sufficiency Act of 1995, will overhaul 6 of the Nation's 10 largest welfare programs.

The Dole modified perfecting amendment would strike the provisions of the committee substitute amendment and insert in lieu thereof substitute provisions, entitled "The Work Opportunity Act of 1995."

**The Santorum amendment** would deny welfare to fugitive felons and to parole and probation violators. Further, State welfare agencies would be required to provide information on welfare recipients to the police upon presentation of felony warrants for those recipients. The amendment also would require States and the Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide the Immigration and Naturalization Service at least 4 times annually, and upon request, the names and addresses of known illegal aliens, as well as other specified information. Finally, the amendment would clarify the current-law requirement to suspend Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) benefits to a caretaker relative for a child when that child is "temporarily absent" by defining "temporarily absent" as an absence of 45 days or more, with a State option of changing the definition to mean any time period between 30 days and 90 days. (No time period is specified in current law; consequently, when minors are incarcerated, often for years at a time, their mothers sometimes continue to collect welfare checks for them.)

**Those favoring** the amendment contended:

Most Americans would be surprised and outraged to learn that fugitive felons frequently sign up for welfare and that in most States welfare agencies are forbidden to give any information on those felons to the police. Thieves, rapists, child molesters, and murderers are all given a blanket protection of "privacy." In Philadelphia, the Police Department informs us that between 65 percent

(See other side)

YEAS (91)				NAYS (6)		NOT VOTING (3)	
Republican (50 or 98%)		Democrats (41 or 89%)		Republicans (1 or 2%)	Democrats (5 or 11%)	Republicans (3)	Democrats (0)
Abraham	Inhofe	Baucus	Heflin	Campbell	Akaka	Cochran- <sup>2</sup>	
Ashcroft	Jeffords	Biden	Hollings		Inouye	Gramm- <sup>2</sup>	
Bennett	Kassebaum	Bingaman	Johnston		Moseley-Braun	Murkowski- <sup>2</sup>	
Bond	Kempthorne	Boxer	Kennedy		Moynihan		
Brown	Kyl	Bradley	Kerry		Simon		
Burns	Lott	Breaux	Kerry				
Chafee	Lugar	Bryan	Kohl				
Coats	Mack	Bumpers	Lautenberg				
Cohen	McCain	Byrd	Leahy				
Coverdell	McConnell	Conrad	Levin				
Craig	Nickles	Daschle	Lieberman				
D'Amato	Packwood	Dodd	Mikulski				
DeWine	Pressler	Dorgan	Murray				
Dole	Roth	Exon	Nunn				
Domenici	Santorum	Feingold	Pell				
Faircloth	Shelby	Feinstein	Pryor				
Frist	Simpson	Ford	Reid				
Gorton	Smith	Glenn	Robb				
Grams	Snowe	Graham	Rockefeller				
Grassley	Specter	Harkin	Sarbanes				
Gregg	Stevens		Wellstone				
Hatch	Thomas						
Hatfield	Thompson						
Helms	Thurmond						
Hutchison	Warner						

#### EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:

1—Official Business  
2—Necessarily Absent  
3—Illness  
4—Other

#### SYMBOLS:

AY—Announced Yea  
AN—Announced Nay  
PY—Paired Yea  
PN—Paired Nay

and 75 percent of all the felons they catch are on welfare of some sort. These criminals would be much easier to capture if the police had access to welfare agencies' information. Oftentimes, the police have only old photographs or sketches and no reliable addresses. Welfare agencies, on the other hand, have very reliable addresses because criminals want to make sure they get their handouts. Additionally, welfare agencies frequently have recent photos of fugitives, plus they have their Social Security numbers. The Santorum amendment would correct this outrage by requiring welfare agencies to surrender information on fugitive felons to the police. Another section of the amendment would stop welfare moms from collecting money to care for their children who are in jail. Currently, they can continue to collect welfare payments for months and even years while their children are locked up for heinous crimes. This result was never intended, but a loophole in the law allows it to happen. The Santorum amendment would make a simple correction to current law to prevent this abuse. The changes in the Santorum amendment are long overdue, and should be noncontroversial. We urge our colleagues to give it their support.

**No arguments were expressed in opposition to the amendment.**